

# W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

## REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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### ★ In This Issue ★

**Canada to Eliminate CW Subbands**  
**FCC Proposes to Relocate Beacons**  
**30 Meter Band to Remain Digital**  
**TAPR Holds Annual Meeting**  
**More on Master of Communications**  
**Personal Direction Finding**  
**No Code Comes to the High Seas**  
**Amateur Radio Call Signs Issued**  
**Scanner Labeling Terminated**  
**ARRL No-Code Committee Meets**  
**AMSAT MicroSat's Go Commercial**  
**CQ All-Schools Net Starts Operation**  
**Goldwater/K7UGA Video Available**  
**...and much, much more!**

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## CANADA TO ELIMINATE CW SUBBANDS?

On February 18th, the Canadian *Department of Communications* (DOC) dropped another deregulations "bomb shell" on their amateur community! The DOC is to Canada ...what the FCC is to the United States. (And it is the DOC, rather than *Communications Canada* ...a name they had to drop when it was determined that name was already in use.) The proposal was not totally unexpected, however, since both of Canada's ham organizations, the CRRL (Canadian Radio Relay League) and CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation), had come out in 1987 as favoring some sort of mode subband deregulation.

At present, Canada ...like the United States, allows certain classes of amateurs to use particular types of emissions on specified portions of the ham bands. Parts of each band, especially the HF bands, are allocated to CW/digital ...while analog emissions such as voice, television, facsimile must operate on another portion of that same band. The rationale generally given is that digital and analog emissions are not generally compatible.

In Canada, the frequencies 3.500-3.725 MHz, 7.000-7.050, 7.100-7.150, 10.100-10.150, 14.000-14.100, 21.000-21.100, 28.000-28.100, 50.000-50.050 and 144.000-144.100 MHz are reserved for CW/Digital emissions.

The DOC is now proposing to totally eliminate the restrictions on the types of emissions that its amateurs may use within the radio frequency bands allocated to the (Canadian) Amateur Radio

Service. In its place, the new regulations will specify a maximum authorized bandwidth, regardless of the type of emission. "Such an elimination," the DOC wrote in their proposal, "permits the Canadian amateur to enjoy equal privileges on a par with other radio users in the international radio environment ...and particularly with those privileges currently extended to U.S. radio amateurs."

Thus, if the DOC has their way, Canadian amateurs will be allowed to operate any mode on any frequency from within an authorized amateur band, limited only by a maximum bandwidth specification. The DOC says the proposal will allow Canadian amateurs to:

- (1.) experiment with new protocols and new emissions without having to request special permission or amend existing DOC regulations and;
- (2.) will address the need for more phone frequencies, expressed by many Canadian amateurs after the last round of U.S. phone band expansions.

The Canadian DOC said it was also their opinion that amateurs are best able to decide what frequencies are most appropriate for their various activities. They are counting on the amateurs' "enviable record for self-policing" to ensure the success of the proposed deregulation. Canada also proposed to allow visiting (foreign) amateurs operating under a reciprocal license to operate with the same frequencies and emissions as Canadian amateurs.

This is a significant change. Foreign amateurs operating under reciprocal permits in the







# W5YI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Page #3

March 15, 1989

emission J3E (Single Sideband Phone) in the 30 meter ham band. **Sivo/W2FJ** of Plainsboro, NJ had filed a petition for Rule Making about a year ago seeking authorization to transmit SSB in the entire 30 meter band, 10100-10150 MHz.

The ARRL had commented that narrowband digital emissions were necessary to protect interference to fixed service stations, the primary users of this small band. Last October **Ralph Haller/N4RH**, Chief of the Private Radio Bureau concluded that the need for telephony transmissions in the 30 meter band "had not been established ...the petition does not raise any new or novel issues warranting further consideration." Sivo appealed to the full Commission. "Because Sivo reiterated his original arguments and had not submitted any new facts, the Commission found no reason to reverse the Bureau's decision."

(Action by Commissioners, 3/6/89 - FCC 89-63)

## PACKET GROUP HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

TAPR, the non-profit *Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation*, is the nation's largest amateur packet organization. Their 15 member Board of Directors is on record as favoring a code-free entry into Amateur Radio. President **Andy Freeborn, N0CCZ**, of Colorado Springs said he felt that the adoption of a no-code license "...was critical to the future of amateur radio." Although TAPR feels the ARRL should undertake the code-free amateur license class initiative, TAPR is going ahead with the preparation of a petition to the FCC containing a no-code proposal. It will be submitted only if the League fails to submit one of their own.

TAPR held their two-day annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona, on February 25 and 26. A poll at the beginning of the conference of those in attendance showed most (65%) were in favor of some sort of codeless entry into ham radio. (25% were opposed, 10% "not committed." TAPR's purpose in seeking a license that does not require Morse code proficiency is threefold:

- (1.) To ensure that crucial spectrum allocations in the VHF and up range are utilized and remain available to the Amateur Radio Service;
- (2.) To lure additional technically competent people into Amateur Radio, ...and;
- (3.) To attract more young people into Amateur Radio to insure the future of the Service.

**Mike Lamb, N7ML**, CEO of Advanced Electronic Applications was a speaker at the TAPR Annual Meeting. He is also a member of the *ARRL No-Code Study Committee*. Lamb said bands like 902-928 MHz will be as important to the Amateur Radio Service in a few years as the 144-148 MHz two-meter band is now, and "...we should seek to populate these bands now to avoid losing them to commercial interests."

**Harold Price, NK6K**, heads up the TAPR committee charged with developing the no-code proposal to provide to the ARRL committee. It was decided that TAPR's no-code proposal should have the following characteristics:

(a.) The existing licensing structure should remain as it is. No privileges will be given to ...or taken away from any existing licensees. To do so would invite controversy.

(b.) An additional licensing structure consisting of two license classes would be added. These classes would grant operating privileges above 30 MHz only. One license would be fairly easy to obtain with a written exam similar in difficulty to the present Technician test.

This license would have very limited privileges. The licensee might be prohibited from controlling repeaters, homebrewing transmitters, or operating high power; and/or the license could be made non-renewable. The license would be limited to selected bands or subbands.

(c.) The other license would be difficult to obtain, with a written exam more difficult than any now in use. This license would have full amateur privileges above 30 MHz.

At the end of the meeting, Freeborn asked how many opinions had been changed by their discussions. Several people in the 'anti-no-code' and uncommitted camps admitted to being swayed toward a code-free class by the arguments they had heard.

## MORE ON 'MASTER OF COMMUNICATIONS'

On January 23, 1989, the Commission issued RM-6648 inviting comments regarding the proposal to change the name of the Amateur Extra Class amateur radio license to the "**Master of Communications**" license. The initial suggestion



# W5YI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Page #4

March 15, 1989

was made by **Keith Greiner, AK0Q** of Des Moines, Iowa.

Greiner submitted Reply Comments on February 15. He said that "...not a single comment has been expressed to me that the name 'Master of Communications' would in any way diminish the status of amateurs. Indeed, virtually all the comments have stated that the name change is an excellent idea which is long overdue."

Keith said typical comments included:

"If the name were changed to *Master of Communications*, I would certainly be motivated to upgrade from Advanced."

"The word 'Extra' makes no sense... Even 'Technician' has more meaning than 'Extra.'"

"A lot of study and hard work is required ...this title would be more meaningful to a lot of amateurs, and an added incentive for some to study further and upgrade."

"Master sounds like a higher rank than Advanced."

Greiner referred to one commenter who asked about his qualifications to make the proposal. "...I have found that virtually every mention of an *Extra Class* license to a non-amateur requires a full explanation if the non-amateur is to understand the meaning of *Extra Class*. Furthermore, I have worked in marketing and market research since 1973. I have a *Master's Degree in Business Administration*. I am currently employed as Assistant Vice President, Market Research for one of Iowa's major financial institutions. Over my entire career, I have frequently worked with image situations like the one I have raised regarding the *Extra Class* license."

"My research ...and the research of many others, shows unequivocally, that the title of any product, job, ...or in this case, a license, is extremely important to the acceptance of that product, or the individual in the job. A typical example from today's financial industries is the growing interest in changing the title of *New Accounts Tellers* to *Sales Associates*, ...or something similar. The job remains the same, but everyone's perception of the job is considerably different.

Greiner suggested the name change be phased in over a period of time to eliminate costs associated with reprinting of forms and publications.

"One item which should be remembered while reviewing comments from amateur radio operators, is that some people, ...even amateur radio operators, oppose change simply because it is change. Change for the better is good, and my proposal is good for ...the image, growth and development of amateur radio in the United States.

Keith requested that the Commission grant the *Petition for Rulemaking* and adopt the proposed name as soon as possible.

**Richard Steck, W9RS**, of Lake Forest, Illinois, however, said in his formal comments he was opposed to changing the name *Amateur Extra* to *Master of Communications*. "The meaning of the name 'Amateur Extra' is very clear to me and probably to 460,000 other radio amateurs. The change would probably be highly disruptive at this time. Why fix something that isn't broken?" Steck asks.

## PERSONAL DIRECTION FINDING.....

Kenneth J. Seymour, a Consulting Engineer from Beaverton, Oregon, has submitted a *Petition for Rulemaking* seeking to allow for direction finding and tracking for personal use on all frequencies outlined in §Part 95.207, *Radio Control Service*, Subpart C. The FCC has accepted the Petition as having preliminary merit and has assigned it file number RM-6681.

He asks that the R/C Service rules be amended to set aside frequencies where private citizens may use direction finding and tracking equipment. Seymour says his proposal "would allow parents to locate lost children, enable owners to locate lost pets, recover personal property. (With the help of local law enforcement agencies, lost or stolen property ...cars, boats, etc., could easily be recovered) ...and enable campers and mountain hikers the ability to quickly locate other members of their party in the event members get lost, separated, or buried in snow avalanches."

Seymour argues that §Part 15 of the Rules does not provide adequate coverage for tracking and direction finding applications. "...the practical limits of equipment operating under §Part 15 is 100 meters. No other Part of the FCC rules enables private citizens, or the general public, to use tracking equipment. There is also no provision for general mass marketing of such equipment. He proposes 1000 to 1500 meters as an ideal range for



personal tracking equipment which should be type accepted. Emission to be authorized are types A0N, A3N, F0N and F3N. "No telephony is to be authorized, thus eliminating uses in covert "bugging" applications. Only a unmodulated carrier or a carrier modulated with a 1000 Hz +/- tone is proposed to be allowed. A pulsed duty cycle was also suggested. "This would conserve battery power."

"During the winter of 1986, six teenage climbers lost their lives in an avalanche on Oregon's Mt. Hood. It took rescuers over two days to find and locate them. If one of the teenagers in that party had a transmitter, the party would still be alive today," Seymour argued.

## "NO-CODE" COMES TO THE HIGH SEAS....

Last November the *International Maritime Organization*, a United Nations Organization, agreed at a London meeting that manual telegraphy was no longer needed on the high seas. The 66 nation strong IMO represents nearly all of the world's ships. Radio operators contacting land stations by Morse code will be phased out starting in a few short years when automatic satellite based communications replaces the gallant CW operator at sea. No more will the Morse code be the foundation of maritime distress and safety communications. Instead of pounding out SOS on a hand key, crews will simply push a button as the *Global Maritime Distress and Safety System* becomes operational. Right now, however, the *International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea* and *U.S. Communications Act* requires radiotelegraph proficient radio officers be aboard ocean-going vessels.

Right after that historic decision, the FCC received requests from 25 large ocean-going oil tankers for exemption from the radiotelegraph requirements. Both U.S. and international regulations permit the FCC to excuse cargo ships from the traditional manual Morse code telegraphy equipment requirements:

- (1.) ...if in the course of their voyages they do not go more than 150 nautical miles from the nearest land and;
- (2.) ...the Commission feels conditions exist that make a radiotelegraph station unreasonable or unnecessary.

Actually the 150 mile limit is a United States requirement, the *International Safety Convention*

## AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of March 1989.

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0	WR0T	KF0BD	N0KGH	KB0EAQ
1	NV1M	KC1NT	N1GIL	KA1TID
2	WN2R	KE2LT	N2JBS	KB2HHK
3	NT3W	KD3LQ	N3GXE	KA3UFQ
4 (*)	AB4NG	KM4OV	N4VDB	KC4JCA
5 (*)	AA5KQ	KG5SE	N5NZS	KB5ION
6 (*)	AA6MW	KJ6RK	N6UMN	KC6BZK
7	WX7Y	KF7RV	N7MJU	KB7GZA
8	WO8Z	KE8WT	N8KLI	KB8GOV
9	WF9Z	KE9OY	N9IFH	KB9CDV
N. Mariana Is.	AH0H	AH0AE	KH0AM	WH0AAI
Guam	KH2K	AH2CE	KH2DR	WH2ALY
Johnston Is.	AH3B	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6JQ	NH6SQ	WH6CBV
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AH	WH8AAX
Wake Wilkes Peale	AH9A	AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7KW	NL7QT	WL7BTX
Virgin Islands	NP2E	KP2BO	NP2CV	WP2AGP
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4PV	WP4UC	WP4IHF

**NOTE:** \* = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. \*\* = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class when Group "A" run out.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

permits exemptions to be granted where it is determined that a radiotelegraph station is not needed.

The requested exemptions are from primarily oil carrying (Exxon and Chevron) vessels operating between Alaska, Panama and the United States coast. The *Radio Officers Union*, fighting for the jobs of their members, argued that the FCC lacked the authority to grant international exemptions ...and that national security and the safety of ships at sea was in jeopardy.

Addressing the national security issue, the Commission said "...the U.S. Navy does not utilize manual Morse code radiotelegraphy for ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore communications". State-of-the-art systems carried by ships "provide multiple pathways



for distress and safety communications and this redundancy increases the probability that vital messages will get through."

"Additionally, because knowledge of Morse code is not required to operate the alternative communications equipment, almost any person aboard ship could be trained to operate these systems, providing greater flexibility than manual Morse radiotelegraphy in distress situations." The Commission ruled that advances in radio equipment technology are equal to ...or superior to radiotelegraphy. It also said that Canada had filed "equivalency statements" with the IMO under which a Canadian ship can substitute a ship earth station satellite terminal in exchange for its main radiotelegraph installation for any voyage.

The *Radio Officers Union* argued that it is unwise for ships to rely on the 2182 kHz marine emergency frequency ...because of numerous instances of poor propagation, but the FCC ruled that modern communications technology provides reliability as least as great as that obtained by relying on radiotelegraphy.

The FCC granted the manual telegraphy exemptions provided certain emergency power and communications equipment were installed and used aboard the vessels ...including a satellite ship earth station, SITOR narrow-band direct printing equipment ...and an HF SSB radiotelephone. As one might anticipate, the *Radio Officers Union* still maintains that Morse code capability is necessary for ships at sea. There seems to be a very close parallel of the "to code/or not to code" positions of the professional and the amateur radio operator.

(Action by FCC released March 3, 1989 by M.O.&O.)

## **ROU STARTS NEW APPRENTICE PROGRAM**

The cat-and-mouse game continues. Word now comes that the *Radio Officer's Union* will change direction to include high-technology at sea. For one thing, the Radio Officer (according to the union) is now called the Radio-Electronics Officer.

William Eney, director of the *Radio Electronic Officer's Union Training School* announced the opening of its new REO apprentice program which will select candidates with First or Second Class Radiotelegraph licenses who qualify by passing a competitive work-related examination. Successful candidates will participate in an intensive

three-part maritime electronics technology training program.

"While maintaining the tradition of John G. Phillips, the Titanic's Radio Officer who helped save the lives of 700 passengers, ROU personnel have mastered the high-tech requirements of today's electronic ship. Future requirements are not only for a dedicated "safety officer", but also for a "master craftsman," their recent announcement says.

ROU also included a new "job description" of the Radio-Electronics Officer. Apparently emphasis will now be placed on electronics ...rather than communications. Here is a paragraph from that description:

"In recent years the radio-electronics officer has upgraded his skills in electronics technology in response to continued advances in communications and navigation electronics equipment being placed aboard ships. He is spending less time working as the sole communicator ...and more time repairing faults in electronics units on the bridge and in the radio room. This demanding trend will continue as ship's electronic communication and navigation systems become more complex and ships' systems continue to be further automated. ...The ROU is preparing for operation aboard future ships which will be electronics marvels. In doing so, the REO continues to perform a vital role."

Apparently the Union recognizes that they either must upgrade their thinking ...or face extinction. Resumes should go to Eney in care of: ROU *Maritime Electronics Training School*; John G. Phillips Memorial Center, 1415 Moylan Road, Panama City, FL 32407. Interesting.

## **SCANNER LABELING, RULES TERMINATED**

After two years of consideration, the FCC has made up its mind about what to do about scanners that can receive radio transmissions that are protected by the *Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986* (EPCA.)

Regency Electronics had filed a petition asking the FCC amend §Part 15 of its rules to require an advisory label on scanners that would caution: "Improper use of this device may violate the provisions of the *Electronic Privacy Act of 1986* through intentional unauthorized interception of protected radio communications." Regency stated requiring



# W5YI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Page #7

March 15, 1989

labelling would help educate the public that certain uses of scanners could be illegal in light of the ECPA.

Inadvertent first time interception of a common carrier call is a misdemeanor under ECPA ...unless one party consents or a court order has been obtained. Intentional monitoring - particularly of cellular phone conversations - carries *stiff* penalties. Strangely, cordless phone calls are exempt since they are "easily accessible" Supposedly cellular calls are not - which is nonsense!

The FCC said that while ECPA placed no direct obligation on the Commission, the Senate Report that accompanied the ECPA indicates that labelling might be an acceptable method of fostering compliance with the law. The Commission tentatively concluded that a label appeared to be the simplest and least burdensome method of advising general radio receiver and scanner users of ECPA prohibitions. An NPRM was issued along these lines on May 27, 1988.

The *Notice*, which did not propose specific wording for the label, addressed the possibility of "blocking" frequencies which carry protected communications. The Commission noted, however, that this approach may not be practical because common spectrum in many cases is used for both protected and unprotected communications.

Comments on the NPRM were received primarily from two factions ...cellular telephone interests and those engaged in recreational monitoring of the radio spectrum. Both opposed scanner labelling, ...but for different reasons

The *Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association* (CTIA) argued that such warning labels would not only allow, but call attention to scanners which could pick up the protected 800-MHz cellular bands while shielding manufacturers from any liability for privacy violations. Cellular commenters believe that manufacturers should be prohibited from marketing devices capable of receiving communications protected by the ECPA. They support a requirement that certain frequencies be *blocked*.

While most manufacturers market either scanners or cellular phones, Radio Shack sells both. They thus saw fit to eliminate the 800-MHz cellular channels from their Realistic PRO-2004 scanner by adding a diode. (How to snip out the D-513 diode

and restore the missing 800 MHz channels has been well covered in many, many publications.) Several individuals (and at least one ham, **Bob Grove/WA4PYQ** of Brasstown, NC, publisher of the SWL publication, *Monitoring Times*) offered a commercial service to restore the factory locked out 800 MHz band in the PRO-2004.

CTIA filed a formal complaint with the *Department of Justice* against Grove Enterprises earlier this year and Bob received a visit from the FBI. He was charged with violating *Section 2512* of the *US Code Title 18, Chapter 19*, which makes it "unlawful to advertise, sell, manufacture or even possess any device which renders it primarily useful for the surreptitious interception of electronic communications." Rather than fight the well-funded CTIA, Grove agreed to voluntarily discontinue advertising the service and the U.S. Attorney has agreed not to prosecute.

Apparently it is legal to own a scanner right out of the box (Uniden has one) with 800 MHz cellular capability, but not to specifically enable that band once factory *blocked* since it is assumed that the user specifically wants to monitor the "blocked" protected spectrum.

Scanner users (represented by SCAN, the *Scanner Association of North America* - headed up by amateur **Bob Hanson/W9AIF** ...and ANARC, the *Association of North American Radio Clubs*) said a clear explanation should be contained in the owners manual or elsewhere defining "protected communications." SCAN went on to explain that without such an explanation, the label may merely serve to disturb the owner or might convey the "wholly unwarranted and highly objectionable impression that the mere possession of a scanner is a violation of the ECPA."

In its final ruling on the matter, the FCC said they now do not believe that technically blocking frequencies is a desirable approach. "As pointed out in the NPRM, although the ECPA prohibits interception of certain classes of communications, the frequencies on which these communications are transmitted can be used for unprotected transmissions as well. In addition, the ECPA does not prohibit the manufacture and sale of scanners or any receiver based solely on the ability to receive specific frequencies."

On the labelling matter, the FCC said they

(one manual covers both 3A and 3B). Advanced (4A) or Extra Class (4B). Cost: \$4.95 each plus \$1.50 shipping/handling. W5YI Dept., P.O. Box #565101; Dallas, TX 75356-5101

Order shipped the same day that order is received. W5YI, P.O. Box #565101; Dallas, Texas 75356-5101



## National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

**March 15, 1989**

(Report & Order, Docket 88-281, 3/3/89 FCC Release)

Ed said he couldn't go into more detail but "...we all feel the decisions that were made were certainly in the best interest of ham radio. In some cases the decisions were not what we personally would have like to have seen. We tried to make decisions that would be palatable to the ham radio community in general. We covered most of the issues. It was pretty much a unanimous conclusion. I doubt that there will be another meeting," Juge said, "we have a little bit of more work to do, but we came

• *Communciations Electronics, Inc.* of Ann Arbor, Michigan, distributor of the **Uniden HR2510**, 10-meter radio is assisting victims that have been unable to get their transceiver from Atlas Radio Co. in Lynbrook, NY. **Ken Ascher/WB8LIT**, Chairman and CEO of CEI said that after talking with the postal authorities, he found the problem to be extensive and said he wanted to help. CEI will offer a special price of \$219.95 (plus \$9.00 shipping/handling) to any person who proves that they did not get their ordered radio from Atlas. To take advantage of the

**AMATEUR RADIO QUESTION POOLS**



# WSYI REPORT

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Page #9

March 15, 1989

special price, you must submit a copy of your signed complaint to the Postal Inspectors ...and a copy of the front/back of the original payment check. (P.O. Box #1045; Ann Arbor, MI - Tel: (313) 973-8888)

•The *Association of North American Radio Clubs* (P.O. Box 143, Falls Church, VA 22046-0143) have decided to award Merit Badges to Boy Scouts demonstrating skill in **shortwave listening**. The new guidelines are expected to include: logging shortwave broadcasts, band surveys at different times of day, compiling the schedules of major broadcasters and locating broadcast sites on a map. Short wave counsellors are needed to advise troop leaders. (Contact: Bob Horvitz at 703-534-7443.)

•AMSAT MICROSAT's go commercial! AMSAT-NA President **Douglas A. Loughmiller, KO5I**, has announced that AMSAT-NA and Interferometrics, Inc. of Vienna, VA, have established an exclusive working agreement for the commercial use outside the Amateur Radio Services of certain technology pertaining to the MICROSAT concept. AMSAT is currently using this technology to construct four amateur MICROSAT's for 1989 launch and will assist Interferometrics in its use. Under the agreement, Interferometrics will use its best efforts to market and produce MICROSAT's for non-Amateur Radio applications ...and will pay AMSAT-NA a fee based upon the revenue it receives from this program. These fees will be used by AMSAT for amateur satellite construction and related technical projects. Principal responsibility for implementing this agreement rests with **Jan King, W3GEY**, Vice President-Engineering.

•The controversy surrounding the 20 meter operation of **Herb Schoebaum, KV4FZ** continues. Some amateurs now are apparently coming to Herb's defense. A letter to the editor from **John F. Dellinger, K4GFM** of Alexandria appearing in the St. Croix daily newspaper says that it is other amateur groups ...and not Schoenbaum that is causing the interference problems. A short-wave-listener from Newark New Jersey, Doris Parnofiello, wrote the FCC saying she sides with Schoenbohm in his conflict with the 14.313 MHz Maritime Mobile Net. Herb has now sent the FCC a series of unedited tapes covering his operation ...and that of others on the 20 meter ham band. He contends he is being jammed on a daily basis because of his criticism and policing of illegal international phone patch traffic. He has asked the FCC to issue a memorandum on the meaning and scope of §Part 97.111.

•Well known ham radio instructors, **Gordon West/WB6NOA** and **Carole Perry/WB2MGP**, invite all schools and youth groups to participate by signing in on a new net. The **CQ All-Schools Net** meets every Tuesday and Thursday on 28.303 MHz at 1730 UTC. Carole writes, "Last week we began the net with the Johnson Space Center, had many interesting hams and schools checking in during the hour, and ended the net with a fabulous QSO with a High School principal in Africa! What an incredible way to learn geography skills and to learn about other cultures." For more information write **Carole Perry, WB2MGP**, Intermediate School 72R, 33 Ferndale, Staten Island, NY 10314, Tel: (718) 698-5757 or 761-5733.

•SMIRK, the **Six Meter International Radio Klub**, headquartered in San Antonio, has filed comments strongly opposing expanding the current 6 meter repeater subband down to the proposed 51 MHz. level. **Ray Clark, K5ZMS** points out that 6 meters is an *international* band and the proposed expansion would interfere with existing DX windows. Comments closed February 28 on the NPRM.

•The **Region 2 IARU Executive Committee** met in Guatemala, Central America, February 11th. Present were Pres. Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG, VP Fabian Zarrabe, YS1FI, Sec. Alberto Shaio, HK3DEU, Treas. Tom Atkins, VE3CDM and Directors: Steve Dunkerley, VP9IM, Luis Caamano, HI8LC, Manual Winer, LU4AH, Hugo Coscio, CP5EC and Frank Butler, W4RH. Participating as a guest and observer was former RSGB Pres. Dr. John Alloway, G3FKM, presently Secretary of IARU Region 1. A special joint meeting hosted by Pres. Cesar Antonio Segovia, TG9CS of the Guatemalan Amateur Radio Society at their Headquarters also involved the presidents of several Central American amateur organizations from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. The meetings covered a very broad range of important matters concerning amateur radio ...including band-planning, emergency communications, IARU training programs, EMI, the probability of a general WARC in 1992, the forthcoming Region 2 General Assembly in Orlando, QSL bureaus ...and other ITU and CITEL matters.

•Radio pioneer, **Bill Eitel, W6UF/W6AY**, silent key at the age of 81. Eitel, along with a partner, founded the Eitel-McCulloch (EIMAC) Company. Bill was an early participant in the amateur satellite program and as Life Member No. 9, provided strong personal/financial support to AMSAT.



**BARRY GOLDWATER, K7UGA:**  
**NO CODE IS GOOD CODE**

*"A Message from Barry Goldwater"*, the videotaped interview between former U.S. Senator **Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA** and ex-NBC newsman **Roy Neal, K6DUE** aired via the *Weststar 5* satellite on Sunday, March 12. Hopefully, many amateurs recorded and will show it at their upcoming club meetings where the pros and cons of a code-free VHF ham ticket are certain to come up. This ten minute video is a good way to introduce your discussion!

Neal asks such far reaching questions as: "If we don't go no-code, do you think we can hold onto our present frequencies? What influence, if any, do you think the amateur fraternity can have on politicians? What is your position on no-code? How would you propose that we get into the business of no-code? ...and more."

Barry warned that it is *"very doubtful"* that the Amateur Radio Service will retain its spectrum without increasing our numbers ...particularly among our nations youth. "We don't have one ham operator among the 535 members of Congress!", he cautions.

Goldwater said he *"really loves the code, but we are not getting new amateurs."* An expanding ham service of young amateurs will not only protect ham spectrum ...but will "also get us into the business of bettering the new communications systems." Barry feels more emphasis should be placed on the written examination. "Forget the code. Nobody's going to use it."

"Now, there used to be a pretty good argument for learning the code. We would say that it would come in handy if you ever become a member of the armed services. No more! There is no requirement for it. All of the armed forces have dropped it. Everything new is digital, computerized ...and there are few things you can't do with a computer and equipment. ...If you want to increase the amateur ranks, they have to do away with the number one objection, code!"

"I know a lot of people will be shocked to hear an old timer like me say that. ..." I like to wobble the key" but it turns off "...some young kid who wants to become an amateur. ...Schools come up here [to Barry's ham shack]. Young people

come to watch radio communication and they are all thrilled. But then you say that you are going to have to learn the Morse Code. They think its impossible!"

"Now, you know and I know that its not, but that's their attitude ...and they don't want any part of the Morse Code. Even if God stuck a pin in their heads and said now you can work Morse, they wouldn't want it! *They are enthralled by the new communications.* I'd hate like the devil to start over again and have to learn them. I'd rather learn the Morse Code over again."

"We will make more advancement with young people fiddling around with soldering irons, a good book and a box full of junk than by teaching them Morse Code...."

"I don't want to see amateur radio die out because, as I have said, 98% of all of the improvements made in radio have come out of an amateur's shack. *I want to see that encouraged.*"

Goldwater said he felt that code proficient amateurs were not being replaced when they became *'silent keys'*. "I think we can swell our ranks by at least 200,000 if we just allow young would-be amateurs to come in as licensed amateurs without having gone through the process of learning the Morse Code!"

A low-cost VHS video tape is being made available to those of you who were not able to record the Neal/Goldwater conversation off of the satellite. Cost is only \$4.00 (shipped 4th class/book rate), \$5.00 for first class/priority mail.

The program was expertly produced/edited by the team of **Roy Neal/K6DUE, Bill Paster-nak/WA6ITF** and **Forrest "Frosty" Oden/N6ENV** - all video professionals. This is the same production crew that did the ARRL's amateur radio promotional videos.

Order *"A Message From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA"* from: **Fred Maia/W5YI, P.O. Box #565101, Dallas, Texas 75356-5101.** The video is available now ...shipment is immediate. This VHS tape may be reproduced and passed along to others.

[Note to newsletter editors and other publishers: It would be appreciated if you could publicize the availability of this video presentation to others who might be interested. Thanks...]